REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-6 (and 7) and 9-13 (and 14) under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,987,044 to Odegawa et al. Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has found claim 8 allowable over the prior art of record.

the Odegawa et al. patent discloses s semiconductor light source system having an optimized setting for driving a laser diode, in which optimal operating parameters, including operating temperature, of a laser diode are determined empirically, and means are provided to restrict the driving parameters of the laser diode such that the laser diode theoretically remains within its optimum operating parameters.

The subject invention relates to controlling a semiconductor laser in a disk drive such that the temperature of the semiconductor laser does not exceed a critical temperature.

As noted in MPEP §2131, it is well-founded that "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California,* 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Further, "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.,* 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The subject invention, as claimed in claim 2, includes the limitations "measuring a light intensity of a laser beam generated

by said semi-conductor laser device", "measuring at least one electrical parameter (VCL; I) indicative of the work point (W) of said semi-conductor laser device"; and "determining an operational temperature of said semi-conductor laser device on the basis of a predetermined relationship between said work point and said operational temperature".

The Examiner has indicated that this limitations is found in Odegawa et al. and states "temperature measurement indirectly measures intensity of light" of a laser beam generated by said semi-conductor laser device.

Applicants have read Odegawa et al. in its entirety, and nowhere is there any mention of measuring the temperature of the semiconductor laser, nor is there any mention of measuring a light intensity. In fact, there is no mention in Odegawa et al. of measuring any parameter. Rather, the driving means for the semiconductor laser are arranged such that they provide the bias current and the signal current only at such levels as would assure operation of the semiconductor laser within the predetermined temperature limitations.

Applicants note that the Examiner makes mention of various sections of Odegawa et al. and implies that the limitations of claim 2 are found therein. However, Applicants believe that the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, col. 3, lines 31-63, merely paraphrases claim 1 of Odegawa et al. and states that the semiconductor optical source includes a laser diode, biasing means for supplying a bias current; drive means for producing a signal

current, and feeding means for combining the bias current with the signal current. Odegawa et al. then indicates limitations placed on the bias means and the drive means, however, there is no disclosure of means for measuring anything. At col. 4, line 38 to col. 5, line 25, Odegawa et al. describes in detail a diagram of Fig. 4 showing the relationship between the drive current, the bias current and an operational temperature of a semiconductor laser diode. Again, there is no disclosure or suggestion of actually measuring anything. At col. 6, line 54 to col. 7, line 9, Odegawa et al. describes a diagram of Fig. 6 in which optimized values of the bias current and drive currents are shown. Again, there is no disclosure of actually measuring any parameter during use of the semiconductor laser.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the subject invention, as claimed, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 2-14, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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